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October 26, 2016

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

I write in support of the proposal submitted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ("the University of Illinois") to establish the Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation (CABBI) as a Bioenergy Research Center (DE-FOA-0001540).

With world-class expertise in genomic and biological sciences, computational science, and economics, the University of Illinois offers strong leadership and research capabilities that will enable CABBI to successfully develop transformative technologies to advance production of fuels and chemicals from plants.

The University of Illinois has unique infrastructure, including the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, the Illinois Energy Farm, and the Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory, which will allow its scientists to lead a large, collaborative, and integrated research center. This center will address three interconnected Department of Energy science focus areas: *Feedstock Development, Conversion, and Sustainability*.

I am confident the University of Illinois and its partners will help the Department of Energy to meet its stated goal to "develop novel biological solutions for the production of specialty biofuels and other bioproducts from plants with the potential to enable a more bio-based economy".

I appreciate your consideration of this proposal and urge you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

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